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Memorandum for:

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The attached memorandum was prepared
by the Political-Social
Issues Branch, European Issues Division,
at the request of Charles Allen, NIO for
Counterterrorism, for the DCI.

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9 July 1985



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**Office of European Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence**

EURM 85-10126

State Dept. review completed

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1 July 1985

Talking Points for DCI: West European Counterterrorism

West European governments remain concerned about the recent spate of hijackings and bombings, and official attentions have focused sharply on terrorism in the last month:

- At the 28-29 June meeting of the European Council in Milan, EC political directors submitted a draft statement on terrorism and hijacking.
- On 24 June, the EC Transport Ministers issued a statement condemning terrorist acts against civil aviation and called for renewed cooperative security efforts to thwart them.
- EC Interior and Justice Ministers met in Rome on 20-21 June to discuss ways to combat terrorism.
- A 14 June meeting in Edinburgh of the Justice Ministers of the 21-member Council of Europe called for intensified cooperation against terrorism. [redacted]

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In press briefings at the EC's Milan meeting, Mrs. Thatcher, Prime Minister Craxi, and other leaders condemned the Beirut hijacking and other recent attacks. The draft statement [redacted]

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[redacted] incorporates Italian language condemning the Beirut action, and British suggestions for practical measures to enhance air security, particularly strengthening international standards for airline and airport security. This would include concerted action by the EC in support of this objective in the ICAO and in third countries, especially those not a party to existing international conventions. [redacted]

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Although EC leaders and Foreign Ministers reportedly have not examined or approved the statement, we believe they pointedly

EUR M 85-10126

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[redacted]

refrained from issuing this statement at the weekend meeting out of consideration for the delicacy of the situation in Beirut at that time. EC Foreign Ministers, however, are likely to update and issue the statement at their next council meeting on 22-23 July in Brussels. [redacted]

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At their earlier meeting, EC Interior and Justice Ministers discussed the Italian proposal for a new European agency to combat terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking. EC member states are divided on this issue, however, as some--notably France--believe it might duplicate efforts in other EC fora. [redacted]

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The meeting of the Bonn Group later this month is likely to garner considerable interest and participation by the Summit Seven countries. Although the agenda has not yet been issued, we believe the Beirut hijacking and other attacks will dictate the tone of the meeting. France--which did not attend the Bonn Group's meeting last spring--is prepared to participate in July, according to US Embassy Paris, as long as the agenda fits within the traditional competence of the group. Paris has long opposed the introduction of items not within the group's purview. The French also asserted that existing conventions on aviation provide a powerful basis for action, within the ICAO context, if Western countries will only use existing provisions to their fullest. [redacted]

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